
From: HJR153
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2004 11:18 AM
To: HJR153
Subject: HJR153 - Federico Cura

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Utility Type: all

Company Name: Telephone, Electric, CableTV

Comments: DO IT! Please consider undergrounding at least some lines. Now, given of the high cost involved and the state's budget situation created at least partly by Republican tax cuts under the previous administration, this would have to be done gradually. I don't have any suggestions on how it should be done though.

1. Nevertheless, I should say that I oppose having the state or local government pay fully for undergrounding utility lines. Government, specially the state government, should subsidize efforts by the utilities to underground lines. Please don't let Virginia Dominion Power off the hook on this one. Utilities have MUCH to gain from the undergrounding of lines in terms of lower maintenance costs in the long run.

2. The undergrounding of lines--in my humble opinion--would imply a significant utility and local government worker awareness and training program. This may have to be done to prevent accidental destruction of buried lines.

3. In my house, I got Verizon a few years ago to underground telephone wires that were crossing my property. It made a HUGE difference in the way my wife and I enjoy our backyard. Aesthetically speaking, I would be willing to pay any reasonable cost to underground utilities on our street. If people could visualize the overall improvement to a house or a neighborhood by having utility lines buried underground, I have no doubt that they would be much more likely to support such a proposal.

4. Insurance companies would probably be happy too. Imagine if government could help prevent the many cars damaged/crashed by falling utility poles during storms. That's government by and for the people, and tax dollars and utility payments well spent.

4. Also, imagine how many forests and trees we could save in the beautiful wooded areas of our state and other parts of the country. Just imagine the benefit to our children's health from more oxygen in the air and overall better air quality. I am impressed that the Republican controlled General Assembly has come up with such a meaningful proposal and I commend those responsible for it. 5. In the future, more house will have photovoltaic cells on top their roofs. The undergrounding of utility lines will reduce shading and help home owners reap full benefit from solar power.

Best. fc